

The Cadiz Sentinel.

Wednesday, Mar. 5.

CHAS. N. ALLEN, Editor.

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LATES OF POSTAGE ON WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.
To all subscribers in the county where published FREE.

The expense to England of the Mason and Slidell affair is understood to be \$304,000.

It is positively asserted that the Archduke Maximilian has accepted the tender to the throne of Mexico.

The French papers express the opinion that the Mexican question will lead to the fall of the Palmerston Cabinet in England.

The Southern Commissioners have been denied any space in the World's Fair at London, on the ground that an allotment of a place to them might be construed into an implied recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

Counterfeit five dollar Treasury notes have their appearance in New York. They are excellent imitations of the genuine, but they can be detected. The letters "U. S." one within the other, on the shield in the goddess of liberty, being left out.

An Important Decision.

It will be seen by reference to the Supreme Court Decision which is given in to-day's Sentinel, that the compensation of a public officer may be constitutionally reduced by law when made up of fees. This decision will affect a great many officers throughout the State.

Harper's Ferry Occupied by Gen. Banks.

Gen. Banks took possession of Harper's Ferry on last Wednesday, without opposition. He has also pushed forward in force and now occupies Charlestown. This is important as indicating an advance upon the rebel lines in South-eastern Virginia.

Murfreesboro', where the telegraph informs us the rebels have been surrounded by Gen. Buell, is the capital of Rutherford county, Tenn. It is a handsome post-village situated in a beautiful plain, and surrounded by a healthful and fertile country. It was the capital of Tennessee from 1817 to 1827, when the State House was consumed by fire.

Letter from the Hon. J. A. Cravens to the President, upon the use of the Smithsonian Institute.

The Hon. J. A. Cravens, the Representative in Congress from the Second District of Indiana, addressed the following letter to the President, objecting to the use of the Smithsonian Institute for the promulgation of Abolition doctrines. The New Albany Ledger says the sentiments of Mr. Cravens will meet with the hearty endorsements of his constituents.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 6, 1862.
To His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln:
Dear Sir: Allow me, with all due respect, to protest against the use of the Smithsonian Institution (of which you are one of the Regents) for the purpose of advancing the sentimentalism of any political party. I regard the lecture of Mr. Horace Greely, delivered at the Institute on the evening of the 31st inst., as far as it related to the question of slavery, highly objectionable. I think the Institution was not endowed for the purpose of promulgating the dogmas of Abolitionism; and I think the public good demands that these sectional lectures at the Institute should be immediately discontinued.

Let us not close our eyes to the painful fact, that if we change the policy of the war, and attempt through its instrumentality to emancipate four millions of slaves, we shall lose all border slave States and send them into the vortex of revolution, soon to be followed by all the Western border free States, whose natural channel of trade and commerce are, and forever must be, with the South.

We cannot afford to make any blunders now. We must "gird up our loins" and look our destiny full in the face. Abolitionism on the one hand and Secessionism on the other must be met and forever crushed, or we had as well begin to prepare for a long and bloody war, ending at last in separation or monarchical consolidation. While conservatism shall mark our administration on the war question, and so long as I am satisfied that you are laboring to save the Union for the sake of the Union as our fathers made it, I am prepared to sustain your policy; but any change toward radical Abolitionism would blast, I fear, the last hope of putting down the rebellion.

With the best wishes of my heart that you may be instrumental in saving the Union and restoring peace to our gloomy and distressed nation, I have the honor to be, Your obedient servant,
J. A. CRAVENS.

That was a timely letter of Mr. Cravens; the result has been, we understand, to close the Smithsonian Institute against any more "abolition lectures." This good example we hope will be followed by all who have control of public institutions, or buildings of any sort. Houses raised by the money of all, should not be desecrated by abolition lectures of treason against the Government, and the peace, order and HONESTY of society. The whole abolition doctrine is based on theft, out-lawry and civil commotions; and while one portion of our people are in the army, offering their lives to put down opposition to the Government in the South, let us who remain at home, do our part in putting down dangerous foes to the Constitution and coun-

try, as those in arms in the South, and much more cowardly.

We shall engender the hostility of free negroes and white abolitionists, it is true, but all sound, true, faithful men, will fall into ranks, or be crushed by the avalanche that is rolling up for the work. The more victories our armies achieve, now, in other States, the more vigilant and determined should we be at home to crush out the treason in our midst.

Our new Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, is after the army thieves with a sharp stick—President Lincoln, so it is said, has shut out abolitionism from the Smithsonian Institution; now let us follow up the good work in every school district, township, county, and State in the North, and thus satisfy by acts—good works—those in the South who have been misled as to the purposes of this war, that all we desire is to re-establish the Union as it was, and the Constitution as our fathers made it. Then, and not till then, can we have peace and prosperity.—[Crisis.]

Mr. Stanton's Letter to the New York Tribune.

The new Secretary of War is winning golden opinions from all quarters. His bold, manly course—his towering intellect—his correct views of public affairs, and his unbending integrity—his unambitious labors, all tend to place him in noble contrast with many others who have found themselves placed in high public stations.

He has startled and scattered the thieving contractors as with a "Jackson Hickory Broom"—he has opened the prison doors and set the POLITICAL and State prisoners free—he has cleared the newspaper spies from the public offices—he is placing the war on its proper basis, and has offered Amnesty to such as are willing to accept the proffered boon—he is for saving the Union and not destroying it—he marks a distinction between OPINIONS and ACTS—he brings back the Government to its normal condition as our fathers made it; and, unlike some others, he neither desires to divide the contracts nor take from the soldier what is the soldiers due to transfer it to himself. All these mark the truly great man—the sound patriot, and the disinterested public servant, and cast a new light upon the political and moral firmament, which will be reflected back with a nation's gratitude.

The nation has confidence in Gen. McClellan as well as in Secretary Stanton, and the vile effort on the part of the abolitionists to create an ill-feeling between them is happily rebuked in the following letter. There has also been a studied effort around our State Capital to involve Secretary Stanton, for or against Wade's re-election by our Legislature. This is unfair, and partake of the common tricks of politicians. Mr. Wade acted fairly, honorably towards Mr. S. on his going into the Cabinet, and for this Mr. S. no doubt feels as a gentleman should, but he has too many things to look after, just now, to turn his attention to affairs that are not under his immediate advisement, and a word kindly spoken should not be, nor can it justly be tortured into a desire to enter into political intrigues, or make any undue interference with our affairs. That Mr. Stanton under the present exigencies, would desire to see some one elected to the Senate in whom he had confidence, as to his personal relations, is very probable, because it is natural, and we hope our Legislature will be too wise to elect any other. We are down on the whole brood of emancipationists, exterminationists, and bayonet-balloob-stuffers, and if Wade is free from these, he is better than some who profess better things.

We care but little who is elected Senator, because the choice is but one of evils, and we regret to hear that the whole subject is not to be postponed for the present, as we think it should be. As the people have done their work, however, we must abide the results, be they what they may.—[Crisis.]

Secretary Stanton on "Organizing Victory"—He Slightly Rebuketh the Tribune's Flattery.

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:
Sir: I cannot suffer undue merit to be ascribed to my official action. The glory of our recent victories belongs to our gallant officers and soldiers that fought the battles. No share of it belongs to me.

Much has recently been said of military combinations and organizing victory. I hear such phrases with apprehension. They commenced in India France with the Italian campaign and resulted in Waterloo. Who can organize victory? Who can combine the elements of success in the battle field? We owe our recent victories to the spirit of the Lord, that moved our soldiers to rush into battle, and filled the hearts of our enemies with terror and dismay. The inspiration that conquered in battle was in the hearts of the soldiers and not on high; and wherever there is the same inspiration there will be the same results. Patriotic spirit, with resolute courage in officers and men, is a military combination that never fails.

We may well rejoice at the recent victories, for they teach us that battles are to be won now and by us in the same and, only manner that they were ever won by any people, or in any age since the days of Joshua, by boldly pursuing and striking the foe. What under the blessings of Providence, I conceive to be the organization of victory and military combination and to end this war, was declared in a few words by General Grant's message to Gen. Bueller—"I propose to move immediately on your works!"
Yours truly,
EDWIN M. STANTON.

General McClellan.

The Cincinnati Commercial, in noticing the assertion of the New York Tribune that General McClellan was a Breckinridge Democrat, says that "this is one of the innumerable fabrications perpetrated with malicious intent by the Tribune school of journalists and politicians." The Commercial adds that "General McClellan was not an active politician, but was a supporter of Douglas."

In the Ohio Senate, on the 25th of February, Mr. Mason, from the Judiciary committee, reported a bill "To refund certain moneys to the county of Harrison and other corporations therein named." It authorizes the Auditor to draw a warrant upon the Treasurer of State in favor of the Treasurer of Harrison county, for so much of the taxes paid in 1859-60 by the Harrison Branch of the State Bank of Ohio, as was computed and paid upon the local levies of those years for county, township, borough and special school taxes.

General Halleck's Proclamation to the People of Tennessee.

The proclamation of General Halleck to the people of Tennessee announcing to them that our army comes there "not to violate the Constitution," strongly denouncing the stealing and running off of negro slaves, and forbidding slaves to come within the military lines, unless specially ordered by the General Commanding, will be gall and wormwood to the Abolitionists, who have desired to turn the war into an anti-slavery crusade. It is more evidence of the conservative policy of the Administration.

Address of Queen Victoria.

The British Parliament convened on the 6th inst. In consequence of her recent family bereavement, Parliament was not opened by Queen Victoria in person. The Queen's speech was communicated by the Lord Chancellor. It is pacific in tone and friendly toward the United States. The settlement of the Trent affair was kindly referred to and there is not a word of rebel encouragement on the subject of intervention. We append

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.—We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty is persuaded that you will deeply participate in the affliction by which her Majesty has been overwhelmed by the calamitous, untimely and irreparable loss of her beloved consort, who has been her comfort and her support. It has been soothing to her Majesty, while suffering most acutely under the awful dispensation of Providence, to receive from all classes of her subjects the most cordial assurances of their sympathy with her sorrow. We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that she looks with confidence to your assistance and advice.

Her Majesty's relations with all the European powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory, and her Majesty trusts there is no reason to apprehend any disturbance of the peace of Europe. A question of great importance, which might have led to very serious consequences, arose between her Majesty and the Government of the United States of North America, being the seizure and forcible removal of four passengers from on board a British mail packet by the commander of a ship of war of the United States. That question has been satisfactorily settled by the restoration of the passengers to British protection, and by the disavowal of the United States Government of the act of violence committed by their naval officer. The friendly relations between her Majesty and the President of the United States are, therefore, unimpaired. Her Majesty willingly appreciates the loyalty and patriotism which have been manifested on this occasion by her Majesty's North American subjects.

The wrongs committed by various parties, and by successive governments in Mexico upon foreign residents with which, she is better than some who profess better things, have led to a Convention between her Majesty and the Emperor of France and the Queen of Spain, for regulating the combined operations on the coast of Mexico with a view to obtain redress which has hitherto been withheld. That Convention and the papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The improvement which has taken place in the relations between her Majesty's government and the Emperor of China evidences the good faith with which the Chinese government have continued to act. The arrangements of the treaty of Tientsin have enabled her Majesty to withdraw her troops from the Port of Canton, and to reduce the amount of her forces on the coast and in the seas of China. Her Majesty, always anxious to exert her influence for the preservation of peace, has concluded a Convention with the Sultan of Morocco, by means of which the Sultan has been enabled to raise the amount necessary for the fulfillment of certain treaty arrangements which he had contracted towards Spain; and, thus, to avoid the result of a renewal of hostilities with that power. That Convention, and papers on the subject will be laid before you.

Her Majesty regrets that in some parts of the United Kingdom, and in certain branches of industry, temporary causes have produced considerable pressure and privation, but we have reason to believe that the general condition of the country is sound and satisfactory.

Her Majesty confidently commends the general interests of the nation to your wisdom and care. She fervently prays that the blessings of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, and may guide them to the protection, the welfare and happiness of her people.

XXXVTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.
SENATE.—Messrs. Doolittle and Sumner presented petitions for emancipation.

Mr. Doolittle, from the special committee, reported a bill for the establishment of a Railroad and Telegraph line from the Missouri river to the Pacific Ocean.
On motion of Mr. Wade, the bill for the occupation and cultivation of cotton lands, was taken up.

Mr. Doolittle thought it a question whether Government should go into raising cotton and attempt to run plantations. He thought it would be a very difficult experiment in a pecuniary sense. If there was a proposition to lease out the lands, he should not object. Wade said he did not suppose the bill would realize any great sum of money, but there was a large extent of territory abandoned, and slaves left at large, and something must be done to take care of them. This was not an settled policy, but only a temporary measure for one year, to meet the necessities of the case.

Mr. Doolittle thought that if commissioners had been sent down to Port Royal to see the elephant we have on our hands, we might have received a great deal of information.
Mr. Wade asked if (Doolittle) had read the able report of Mr. Pierce on the subject.
Mr. Doolittle said he had not; he confessed to ignorance on the subject.
Mr. Hale said if the war could be prosecuted to a successful issue without hurting any body, he would be glad of it; but he did not think that was fact. He thought there was great force in the remark of the Senator from Massachusetts, that the seed time was upon them. It is a fact seed time is upon us, and if we do not take advantage of it, we may be obliged to wait the summer is past, the harvest is ended, and we are not saved.

Mr. Foster thought the bill was drawn it was made expressly to save property, and not destroy and protect from ruin. It proposes to provide for those who are in a perishing condition, and speedy relief furnish.

The morning hour having expired, the bill fixing the number of members of the House was taken up.

Mr. Collamer's amendment was adopted, and the bill passed.

The Starke case was then taken up, and a long discussion ensued.
Mr. Sumner spoke strongly against his admission, charging him with disloyalty, and saying it would be a great injury to the country to take the oath.

Mr. Davis thought the Senate had all the evidence before them. He contended that the Senate could not be more opinion; there must be some overt act. What is disloyalty? That is the question. He thought the majority of the people think the Senator from Massachusetts disloyal. He could take the resolutions offered by the Senator from Massachusetts, and prove him as disloyal as the gentleman from Oregon. Indeed that was his view of the relative state of the case. The Senator from Massachusetts had better beware what principles he advocates, or he may be brought to submit to them himself.

Mr. Sumner said the Senators from Illinois and Maine criticised what he said as being an injurious imputation on them. Nothing was further from his thoughts. He knew the Senator from Illinois was simply able to take care of himself, and he had not the presumption to offer any assistance. He thought the remarks of the Senator from Maine not perfectly kind or perfectly restrained from passion. He (Sumner) intended nothing injurious to that Senator. He had great respect for him, and he kindly relations to make any suggestion which he could interpret into unkindness. He had said he was not astonished that the Senators sought to relieve themselves of responsibility.

Mr. Fessenden asked what evidence there was that any one was relieved of responsibility.
Mr. Sumner said that certain Senators were anxious that the inquiry should take place.

Mr. Browning said he was in favor of further investigation, but not with any view to relieve himself of responsibility.

The morning hour having expired, the motion was laid over until the next day.
Mr. Clark offered a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, as a substitute for the bill of the committee on the same subject.

Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution asking that the Secretary of the Treasury transmit to the Senate a copy of the report of Edward L. Pierce on the progress of Port Royal, and such other information as he may have on the subject. He also introduced a bill to encourage enlistment in the regular army. Referred.

Mr. Grimes presented memorial of certain regiments of Iowa soldiers in the Springfield, Mill Spring, Belmont and Fort Donelson, as is inscribed on their banners.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, the Executive and Legislative appropriation bill was taken up.
Mr. Wade wished to make an explanation. He referred to a paragraph in the New York Tribune, relative to certain railroad legislation, and that certain words were put in the bill giving the Government power to take possession of railroads, etc. He said he introduced that bill, and it is true the words complained of were not in the original bill, but he introduced that amendment in the Senate and explained it. The idea that anybody interpolated the words into the bill after it passed from the Senate, was an imputation on the Clerk which was entirely groundless. If anybody was to blame he was.

Mr. Grimes said the Senator did not explain the amendment. He was unwilling that it should go to the country that he (Grimes) would have voted for such a provision, if he had known what it was.

HOUSE.—The House proceeded to the consideration of the apostrophe order, namely: the bill providing for receiving engineers to the volunteer service of the United States. After debate the bill was rejected.

The homestead bill was considered. An amendment was offered and rejected prohibiting the engineers authorized by this act from being employed in the construction of any railroad not authorized by law. The bill was rejected—57 against 62.

The bill granting homesteads to actual settlers, and providing bounty for soldiers in lieu of lands, was taken up. Messrs. Holman and Winder discussed the merits of the question. The bill was passed—105 against 16.

A Candid Confession.

The Charleston Courier, one of the most rabid secession papers in the South, candidly acknowledged the rebel losses in the present rebellion. That journal says:

"We have sustained heavy loss in munitions of war, our country has been deprived of the services of several thousands of her best disciplined and bravest soldiers, and parents and wives weep in the bitterness of grief over those who will never again bless them with their smiles. The enemy pushes on, flushed with victory, to win more triumphs, and to cause other hearts to bleed. We feel these reverses. We acknowledge them openly."

Ex-Gov. PENNINGTON, of New Jersey, was poisoned. His apothecary put up morphine in a powder for him instead of quinine, and he took eight grains, which caused his death. He had been ill of typhoid fever.

The great Anconada is tightening its coils around the Rebel Confederacy.

War to communicate to the House the report and correspondence of the commission sitting at St. Louis for the examination of claims growing out of affairs in the Western Military Department.

Important Decision by the Supreme Court.

The following decision by the Supreme Court removes the difficulty in the way of legislating for the reduction of fees of incumbent county officers, viz: No. 118, John G. Thompson, Treasurer of Franklin County, Relator, vs. John Phillips, Auditor of said County.

The Relator is Treasurer of Franklin County. His term of office commenced on the first Monday of September, 1860, and will continue to the first Monday of September, 1862. 2 S. & C. 1473, sec. xv. He is making the semi-annual settlement with the defendant, who is Auditor of the county, required by the statute. 2 S. & C. 1677, sec. viii. Upon this settlement it is the duty of the Auditor to allow him the compensation to which he is entitled by law for his services as Treasurer. Sec. viii supra. The Auditor offers to allow him the compensation prescribed by the act of April 9, 1861 (38 O. L. 1107); and, under instruction from the State Auditor, refuses to allow him any more—the sole ground of this refusal being that, in the opinion of the Auditor, his compensation is governed by that act. The Relator insists that he is entitled to the compensation prescribed by the laws in force on the first Monday of September, 1860, when his term of office commenced (about \$400 more than that offered by the Auditor), and he prays for a peremptory mandamus to compel the defendant to allow him that compensation.

The Relator to show that he is not affected by the act of April 9, 1861, relies on the following section of the Constitution. "The General Assembly, in cases not provided for in the Constitution, shall fix the term of office, and the compensation of all officers; but no change therein shall affect the salary of any officer during his existing term, unless the office be abolished." Sec. 20, Art. 2.

It is manifest from the change of expression in the two clauses of the section, that the word salary was not used in a general sense embracing any compensation fixed for an officer, but in its limited sense, of an annual or periodical payment for services—a payment dependent on the time, and not on the amount of the service rendered. Where the compensation, as in this case, is to be ascertained by a per centage on the amount of money received and disbursed, we think it is not a salary within the meaning of the section of the Constitution.

Peremptory Mandamus refused.

Commodore Foote.

A Cairo correspondent of a St. Louis paper tells the following story of Com. Foote, of our Western flotilla. It appears that the gallant Commodore can officiate in the church as well as in his fleet, and exhort Christians as well as he can strike terror into the hearts of the rebels.

To-day Commodore Foote attended the Presbyterian church. A large congregation was in attendance, but the preacher did not make his appearance. A general impatience beginning to manifest itself, the Commodore sought the elder of the church, and asked him to perform the services. The elder refusing, the Commodore, on the impulse of the moment, took the pulpit, read a chapter in the Bible, prayed, and delivered a short discourse from the text, "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God—believe also in us." The congregation was delighted. On coming down from the pulpit, the minister, who had arrived just after the prayer, approached and tendered his thanks, but the Commodore rebuked him for his neglect to take the pulpit immediately on his arrival. This incident is illustrative of the Commodore's energetic, earnest character and sincere piety.

How Bob McCook's "Bully Dutch" TESTED, WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS STRYCHNINE IN REBEL APPLE BRANDY.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial tells the following "good un" on Colonel McCook's "bully dutchmen." It was just after the Somerset fight:

Being among the first who entered the rebel fortifications, I discovered a barrel which proved to contain apple brandy. Pulling out the cork, which indicated our force to attack it, I took out the bung hole, I turned it up and filled a canteen.

While doing this one of Bob McCook's skirmishers came in and says, "vat you gets there?" I replied that it appeared to be pretty fair apple brandy; upon which the Dutchman ran to the door, calling out furiously, "Hans! Henrick! schnaps! See; some a rouse!" Upon which a dozen Dutchmen came in, and the brandy, which was not spilt upon the ground, and was soon transferred to their canteens. I said, "boys, you had better look out—this is a doctor's shop, and there may be strychnine in that brandy." They paused a moment to look at each other, when one of them exclaimed:

"Ty Got, Hans, I tell you vat I do; I think some, and it don't kill me, den you trinks!"—upon which he took a long and hearty pull at his canteen, and smacking his lips a moment, said, "All right, Hans, go ahead!"

Fresh Maple Molasses.

A correspondent of the Field Notes gives the following: Maple molasses well made and put up in cans right from the kettles, and hermetically sealed, as you would can seal fruit, will keep as fresh as when first boiled from the sap, and this exceedingly the best plan for keeping, as when made in cakes, if exposed to the air, it will lose somewhat of the peculiar delightful flavor for which it is so prized, and is often injured by insects. All this is obviated by canning well hot. To many families who do not make it on a large scale, this new but little known, and by the cans that have been emptied through the winter can be used until autumn fruits demand them again. Put up your best in this way. Where large quantities are made for market, the buyers must select and can for themselves.

Philadelphia Cattle Market, Feb. 24.

The receipts of Beef Cattle are larger than usual this week, reaching about 1,400 head. The market continues dull, and prices 55c to 100c less than last week.

About 100 Cows arrived, and sold at the Avenue Drove Yard, at \$18 to \$39 per head, as to quality.

The arrivals and sales of Sheep reached about 4,000 head this week, selling at from 45c to 50c per lb., as to condition.

800 Hogs sold at the Avenue Drove Yard, at from \$5 to \$6 per 100 lbs. H. G. Imhoff's Union Hog Yard reached 3,024 head, selling at from \$5 22 to \$5 30 per 100 lbs. net, according to quality.—Free.

New York Cattle Market.

New York, Feb. 28.—The current prices for the week at all the markets are as follows: Beef Cattle, 1st quality, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Ordinary, \$8.50 to \$9.00; Common, \$8.00 to \$8.50; Inferior, \$7.50 to \$8.00; Sheep and Lambs, 1st quality, \$4.00 to \$4.50; Ordinary, \$3.50 to \$4.00; Inferior, \$3.00 to \$3.50; Swine, corn fed, 4 1/2c to 4 3/4c; still fed, 3 1/2c to 4 1/4c.

Ex-Gov. PENNINGTON, of New Jersey, was poisoned.

His apothecary put up morphine in a powder for him instead of quinine, and he took eight grains, which caused his death. He had been ill of typhoid fever.

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MONDAY'S NEWS.

Death of Gen. Lander—Gen. Shields succeeds him in command—Dispatch from Com. Foote.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—General Lander died this afternoon at Paw Paw, Western Virginia, from the debilitating effects of his wounds, received at Edward's Ferry. His body is on the way to this city, where his widow (formerly Miss Jean Darnaport, tragically slain) resides. Gen. Shields succeeds Gen. Lander in command.

The following dispatch was received from Com. Foote, dated Cairo, March 1st: "Lieut. Commanding Phelps, sent with a flag of truce to Columbus, has this moment returned, and reported that Columbus is being evacuated. He saw the rebels burning their winter quarters and removing their heavy guns on the bluffs, but the guns in the water batteries remain intact. He also saw a large force of rebels drawn up, ostensibly on the bluffs, but no infantry was to be seen as heretofore. The reconnoissance seen in our armed reconnoissance a few days since has been removed. Large fires were visible in the town of Columbus and upon the river banks below, indicating the destruction of the town, military stores and equipments."

A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer.

It is believed here that our army has by this time occupied Columbus.

Official—Executive Order No. 212, in Relation to State Prisoners.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.

It is ordered, First—That a special commission of two persons, one of military rank and the other in civil life, be appointed to examine the cases of the State prisoners, remaining in the military custody of the United States, and to determine whether, in view of the public safety and the existing rebellion, they should remain in military custody, or be remitted to the civil tribunals for trial.

Second—That Major John A. Dix, commanding in Baltimore, and the Hon. Edward Pierpont, of New York, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners for the purpose above mentioned, and they are authorized to examine, hear and determine the cases of said prisoners, and in a proper manner, at such times and places in their discretion they may appoint, and make full report to the War Department.

By order of the President,
EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Rebel Depredations in Nashville—Columbus being Evacuated.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—A special to the Tribune from Cairo says: The rebel army, from their retreat from Nashville, left sixteen hundred sick and wounded, destroyed the bridges, and burned all the steamboats but one, which escaped.

The Texas soldiers fired the city in many places, but the citizens extinguished the flames. A great majority of the citizens owning property remained.

The excitement was intense. Governor Harris made a speech, and said he had done all he could, he was going to leave, and advised them all to follow.

I learn from a gentleman thoroughly conversant with Kentucky that the rebels are dismounting their large guns at the Columbus works. The evacuation is going on. Several transports were lying at Columbus to carry off the troops.

Every man coming into Columbus was impressed—even farmers with their teams. The rebel War Department has called on Tennessee for thirty-two more regiments.

An official dispatch received at Knoxville, East Tennessee, says that an ample force will advance from Richmond to protect East Tennessee.

Gov. Harris has taken the field in person. The story of Gen. Beauregard's illness is unfounded; he left Corinth for Columbus on the 13th.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—A dispatch from Com. Goldsboro to Secretary Welles, dated U. S. Steamer Philadelphia, off Roanoke Island, Feb. 28, says:

The reconnoitering party sent up the Chowan river has returned. It did not go up beyond Winton. There the enemy in considerable force opened a heavy fire upon the vessel in advance, the Delaware, with a battery of artillery and musketry, which induced our force to attack it in front, both by landing the New York 9th (Zouaves), and with the guns of the vessel that could be brought to bear upon the enemy. The enemy soon took flight, and the houses they occupied as quarters were burned. Not a man was killed on either side.

It is quiet across the river, opposite Washington. No news of public interest from that section of the army has been received here to-day.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Maj. Gen. Hitchcock declines his nomination to that position on the ground that he had health, with which he has been suffering for several years, will not permit him to perform the duties of the field. His letter of declination utters strong Union sentiments; his fervent desire that the rebellion should be speedily overthrown, and his confidence that this will soon take place and the authority of the Federal Government at every where established. He expresses great admiration of the brilliant achievements recently in the West, and of the military genius which they manifest.

The Rebels Surrounded at Murfreesboro.

CHICAGO, March 1.—A special to the Tribune from Cairo, says there is a report from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, that the rebels were concentrated at that place, and that Gen. Buell surrounded them so that none could escape.

The rebels offered to surrender the position if allowed to march out with the honors of war. Gen. Buell refused, and demanded an unconditional surrender, and said he would allow two days for consideration. If the place was not surrendered at the expiration of that time, he would open fire upon them. The time expired yesterday morning.

Gen. Curtis in Possession of Lafayetteville, Ark.

St. Louis, Feb. 27.—The following dispatch was sent from headquarters to-day: "General Curtis has taken possession of Lafayetteville, Ark., capturing a number of prisoners, stores, baggage, etc. The enemy burned part of the town before leaving. They have crossed Boston Mountains in great confusion. We are now in possession of all their strongholds."

Forty-four officers and men of the 5th Missouri cavalry were poisoned at Mutton, by eating poisoned food, which the rebels had left behind them. The gallant Captain Dollett died, and Lieut. Col. Van Derich and Capt. Schuman have suffered much, but are recovering. The indignation of our soldiers is very great, but they have been restrained from retaliating upon the prisoners of war.

(Signed) H. W. HALLECK, Major-General.

WHILE O. JENNINGS was lay on his death bed, suffering from his wounds, but not suspecting his danger, lifting himself partially on one elbow, he turned his face toward the Federal surgeon in charge and said—"When I am sufficiently recovered, do you not think I will be allowed to go home, on my parole of honor?" The Doctor quite willing to gratify him, replied that he had no doubt but that the General would allow him every reasonable gratification. Before many hours had elapsed, however, his parole was granted from a higher than earthly source.—Wheeling Intelligence.